



Civil Rights
Then and Now,
pages 4-5

THE WAGE WAR

By ISABEL MODELL-KOWALSKI, age 12



Youth on strike to raise the minimum wage in Milwaukee, WI.

Today, many people find that making a living has become a struggle. Currently the federal minimum wage is \$7.25, which is barely enough to survive. The last time the wage was raised was on July 24, 2009, from \$6.55.

In November 2012, New York Communities for Change spoke with workers at the largest organized minimum wage protest to support fast food workers. Many stated that they were still struggling to make ends meet, even with income from multiple jobs.

In this year's State of the Union Address, President Obama proclaimed that he wants to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10. He stated, "The cold hard fact is that most Americans are working hard to get by, not get ahead."



VOTESAWANT.ORG

Recently-elected Councilmember Kshama Sawant of Seattle campaigned on a platform to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

In response to the State of the Union speech, newly elected Socialist Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant stated that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 "is not a ticket out of poverty." She leads a program called 15Now, which calls for an increase to \$15.00 for a more realistic way to get by.

The recent economic recession is affecting everyone. According to the University of California Davis Center for Poverty Research, the current minimum wage for full-time work results in an income of \$15,080 annually. In 2012, the federal government defined "poor" for a family of four with two children as earning \$22,283 or less yearly. According to the MIT Living Wage* Calculator, the living wage for a family of four in New York, before taxes, is \$46,421.

A number of recent polls show that about three-fourths of Americans favor an increased minimum wage. While the majority of those employed at minimum wage would probably agree it should be raised, some people argue that unemployment rates would go up and poverty would increase. If businesses had to pay their workers more, they might lay some of them off to save money.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses creates an example scenario: "A community-based pizza parlor is selling 100 pies a day for 360 days at \$10 each. Total [profit] is \$360,000. It employs 10 minimum wage workers earning \$7 per hour, working 2,000 hours a year, making labor costs \$140,000." To keep its costs the same, the pizza parlor would have to lay off three workers.

However, Councilmember Sawant proposes that small businesses could be subsidized** with money from increased taxes on big companies. She also argues that raising wages actually lowers unemployment: "When working people have more income, their spending power goes up, which in turn boosts sales, which further increases jobs and overall spending power, and so on."

The main challenge right now is to make sure workers earn a living wage so that they and their families don't live in poverty, while convincing employers it would be good for business.

* **Living wage:** the amount of money people must make to support themselves and their families in a given location. It must cover the cost of food, housing, healthcare, transportation, child care, and other necessities.

* **Subsidy:** a sum of money given by the government to a company, organization or individual, often to support social policy. In this case, it would help small businesses afford to pay their workers higher wages.

Workers and their families in New York City demonstrating to raise wages in the fast food sector.



FLICKR/MTUMESOL



Meet... Elisbeth from Panama

Name: Elisbeth Espinosa

Age: 7

Lives In: Panama City

Languages Spoken: Spanish

Parents' Jobs: Her mother is a school teacher and her father worked in pest control

Favorite Food: Mashed potatoes, maduros (sweet plantains) and sausages

Favorite Subject in School: Spanish

Favorite Animal: Dog

Favorite Activities: Taking walks and playing

Favorite Flower: Violet

What She Wants to Be When She Grows Up: A teacher



MPPOPE

Panama at a Glance

Capital of Panama: Panama City

Population: 3.66 million

Language Spoken: Spanish

Religions: 79% Roman Catholic, 17% Protestant, 4% other

Learn More: Panama is the southernmost country in Central America. The entire country is actually an isthmus—a narrow strip of land with water on either side that connects two large land masses (South America and North America). This made it the perfect location for the Panama Canal, opened in 1914, which enables ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans without having to go all the way around South America.

25,000

The number of students who compete for 5,000 spots at specialized high schools in New York City each year.
Source: Insideschools

nation&world

Net Neutrality: Why Is It Important?



By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 12



STEVE RHODES

Without net neutrality, communities of color, alternative political groups and small businesses may have a harder time making their voices heard on the Web.

The Internet is on the brink of change. In January 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in *Verizon v. Federal Communications Commission* that Internet providers like AT&T, Time Warner Cable and Verizon are allowed to slow down or block certain websites and content from users.

The ruling goes against the idea of net neutrality, one of the founding principles of the Internet. Net neutrality is the concept that everything on the Internet should be accessible to all.

With new rules in effect, the Internet will become more like cable television. Internet providers could charge sites money to run faster, so those sites that couldn't pay would be stuck in the slow lane.

Without net neutrality, communities of color, alternative political groups and small

businesses may have a harder time making their voices heard on the Web. Internet businesses that started out small, such as Twitter, YouTube and Google, may not have been discovered with such laws in place to slow them down. If a new website cannot pay the tolls, their content won't be as easily discovered. New ideas, creative, political and otherwise, may have less exposure.

In an interview with PBS, Craig Aaron, CEO of Free Press, a non-profit media reform group explains, "I think [the court ruling] is potentially very harmful to innovation, because the beauty of net neutrality is that it created that even playing field, where anybody out there with a good idea, with a new product or service had just as good a chance as anybody else to find an audience on the Internet."

To Test or Not to Test: Getting Into NYC's Specialized High Schools



By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 10

Eight of NYC's nine specialized high schools use only a single score from one exam to determine admissions. "I don't think that these tests are the best gauge of a student's intelligence," says Genene West, a graduate of Brooklyn Tech, a specialized high school.

According to the non-profit organization Insideschools, more than 25,000 students compete for 5,000 spots at these schools, which are considered the "best" high schools in the city, and pathways to "top" colleges. "Tests shouldn't be the way kids get into NYC elite schools," said Mayor Bill DeBlasio during his mayoral campaign.

The NAACP and other organizations filed a federal complaint, stating that this policy denies admission to students of color at high rates. Others, like former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, find nothing wrong with the situation. "You pass the test, you get the highest score, you get into the school," said Bloomberg. "No matter what your ethnicity, no matter what your economic background is."

However, critics have pointed out that while some families can pay to better prepare their kids for the test with tutoring, those living at lower income levels cannot. "I think all the test really tells us is who has had the best

preparation for the test. Many students spend months being tutored just for that test," says high school teacher Alan Duffy.

As this debate grows and joins the nationwide high-stakes standardized testing discussion, students, parents, educators and politicians face the challenge of making sure that all kids are educated and evaluated on a level playing field.



JEFF PLOQUINTO, SJ

According to Insideschools, more than 25,000 students compete for 5,000 spots at each specialized high school in NYC.

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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IndyKids, P.O. Box 2281, New York, NY 10163.
or donate online at www.IndyKids.org



Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a) Seattle ____ | f) Antarctica ____ |
| b) Panama ____ | g) England ____ |
| c) South Africa ____ | h) Manhattan ____ |
| d) Palestine ____ | i) Kentucky ____ |
| e) Germany ____ | |



Nelson Mandela and Apartheid South Africa

By SPENCER NEUMAN, age 10

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was known for fighting Apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was a system of separating black and white South Africans. The white descendants of the Dutch settlers in South Africa had discriminated against and denied rights to blacks for years. In 1948, they put into place Apartheid laws that made the discrimination legal.

Blacks in South Africa had to carry a “passbook” with them at all times to prove they were authorized to live in or pass through white-only sections of South Africa. Otherwise they would be arrested.

On March 21, 1960, a protest against these Apartheid laws led to the Sharpeville Massacre. That day, about 19,000 black South Africans showed up to protest, and by the end, the South African police had killed 69 of them. The United Nations condemned South Africa and many countries avoided doing business with South Africa, which made its economy struggle and put pressure on the government to end Apartheid.

Mandela had been protesting against Apartheid since the 1940s, working as a lawyer and an activist for an organization called the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC fought against Apartheid with military actions,



Segregated bus lines in Apartheid South Africa in 1982.

strikes, boycotts and other acts of disobedience.

In 1962, Mandela was arrested and sentenced to life in prison. Over the next 30 years, political protest against Apartheid increased.

In 1990, an international campaign to release Mandela from prison was successful. Once free, Mandela worked to abolish Apartheid once and for all, and called for multi-racial elections. In 1994, the South African people elected Nelson Mandela as their first black president.

Palestine Urges Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

By ELEANOR HEDGES-DUROY, age 11

In 2005, Palestinian organizations started the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) to bring attention to struggles in Palestine. The conflict started after World War II, when Palestinians were forced to leave their homes to make room for the new state of Israel that was established for Jewish immigrants, including many Holocaust survivors. In a 1967 war, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza, driving out another 300,000 Palestinians and establishing a military occupation in these territories.

The BDS* movement argues Palestinians are denied human rights under Israeli rule. It asks people and organizations worldwide to boycott, divest and sanction Israel until the Israeli government tears down the separation wall between Palestine and Israel (which keeps Palestinians from traveling within and leaving their own country without Israeli permission), gives full equality to Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel and respects Palestinians’ rights to maintain and return to their homes under United Nations Resolution 194.

The BDS movement has growing international support from unions, Christian organizations, university groups and celebrities. Nevertheless, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated, “Attempts to impose a boycott on the State of Israel are immoral and unjust. Moreover, they will not achieve their goal.”



Communities living in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank have been living under Israeli military occupation since 1967.

However, Palestinian activist, Diana al-Zeer said to the BBC, “We’re here to demand a Palestinian existence on Palestinian land....Palestinian houses here are being demolished, Palestinians are being thrown off their land and we’re here to say ‘no’ to all of this.”**

* **BDS** activists want people to **boycott** (not purchase) Israeli-made products, **divest** (withdraw support) from companies benefitting from human rights violations there and **sanction** (refuse to trade with) Israel.

** The Israeli government has been bulldozing their houses to make room for new homes for Jewish settlers on Palestinian land, which are illegal under international law. This has made peace talks more complicated.

newsbriefs



Strike Debt To Change Tactics

By IRATI EGORHO DIEZ, age 11

Rolling Jubilee, a project by the Strike Debt movement that started in 2012, has raised \$701,317 to abolish \$14,734,569.87 worth of debt. This project buys people’s debt at a fraction of its worth as a demonstration against a society that revolves around Wall Street profits. After 2014, the project will stop abolishing debt in the same way, and will instead find new ways of developing a collective power against creditors.

No Cigarettes At CVS

By CALUM WOLFE-THOMPSON, age 10



CVS Caremark, the largest U.S. drugstore chain, plans to stop selling tobacco products in October 2014. “Cigarettes and providing healthcare just don’t go together,” said CEO Larry Merlo, who hopes to transform CVS into more of a healthcare provider than a retail business. This is good news for kids: the peak age for starting to smoke is between 11 and 13, and the earlier people begin smoking, the higher their chance of developing smoking-related diseases as adults.

U.S. Media Silent on Latest Snowden Interview

By KATIE SCHLECHTER, IndyKids Staff



In a German TV interview in early February 2014, Edward Snowden explained how domestic spying programs in the United States weaken human rights and democracy. While the interview was treated as breaking news throughout the world, it was not reported on by the U.S. mainstream media. The interview was a follow-up to his initial interview with Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras in June 2013, revealing the National Security Administration’s massive spying programs.

CIVIL RIGHTS THEN and NOW



By ELIYA AHMAD, age 12, and DAPHNE KNOUSE FRENZER, age 12. Introduction by KATIE SCHLECHTER, IndyKids Staff

In school, we learn about the famous Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 60s. We study the passionate activism of leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. We read stories about famous acts of **civil disobedience** like the lunch counter sit-ins, where black patrons sat down to eat in “whites-only” restaurants and were arrested for refusing to leave. The courageous work of so many groups and individuals, celebrated and unknown, pushed our country to make incredible transformations. However, the struggle is far from over.

Today in 2014, 50 years after the passage of the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964, much is still left to be done. Systems of racial inequality are expanding as public schools are closed and new prisons are opened. Economic inequality is rising as the minimum wage remains low and **social safety nets** like Medicaid and food stamps are threatened or cut. In many ways, the battles fought in the past share similar themes with challenges we face today.

ABERNATHY FAMILY PHOTOS



Civil rights movement leaders Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. Martin Luther King and their families lead the famous march from Selma to Montgomery, AL in 1965.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The Richmond 34, a group of university students participating in a sit-in at a lunch counter of a department store in Richmond, VA in 1960. They were arrested and charged with trespassing.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Students from the Little Rock Nine shake President Lyndon B. Johnson's hand. They were the first African American students to enroll in Little Rock High School in Arkansas after *Brown v. Board of Education*.

THEN

Brown v. Board of Education

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional in the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. The justices found that schools separated by race were **inherently** unequal. This violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, which says, “No state shall ... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” The ruling began a national trend toward racial integration.

Desegregation

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed, making it illegal to segregate public facilities and the workplace. While *Brown v. Board* intended to end segregation in schools, only 1.2 percent of public schools had been racially integrated by 1964. The Civil Rights Act helped to further integration nationally, not only in schools, but in public places, businesses, and voting booths. As a result, minorities—especially blacks—were able to participate more in civic life.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 to try to eliminate discrimination within the voting system. It states that it is illegal to prevent anyone from voting based on their race, and that inclusive materials (such as ballots in multiple languages) must be provided for people of language minorities. According to the ACLU, “By the end of 1965, 250,000 new black voters [were] registered.”

War on Poverty

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a War on Poverty: a series of actions meant to decrease the overall poverty rate in the United States. This included programs such as the Neighborhood Youth Corps, which gave work experience to less privileged youths. It also included the Food Stamp Act of 1964 and the Social Security Act of 1965, which gave the poor and elderly better access to food and healthcare. In the years after the act was passed, the nationwide poverty rate was at one of its lowest points in recent history.

NOW

The School-to-Prison Pipeline

Sixty years after the *Brown v. Board* decision, inequalities still exist in our nation's schools. “Zero tolerance” policies that unnecessarily push students into the criminal justice system for violating school rules create a “school-to-prison pipeline.” Students routinely receive automatic and severe punishments, such as arrest and criminal charges, for minor offenses, like behavioral issues. Most of the students hurt by such policies are the poor and racial minorities, expanding inequality along racial and class lines.

Gentrification

Today, segregation can be seen through the process of gentrification. Gentrification is when middle- and low-income residents, often in communities of color, are **displaced** from their homes by richer people and companies, due to the rising cost of real estate. As rents increase and people are forced to leave their neighborhoods, racial and economic segregation deepens and grows.

Voter Suppression

In June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that section 4b of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional. According to Chief Justice John G. Roberts, “our country has changed,” so it is no longer necessary. Since then, some states have tried to pass legislation that would restrict racial minorities and the poor from voting. In Texas, for example, a new law would enact strict rules for acceptable photo identification for voting. Some people believe this will increase discrimination by not allowing an equal chance for certain people to vote.

War on the Poor

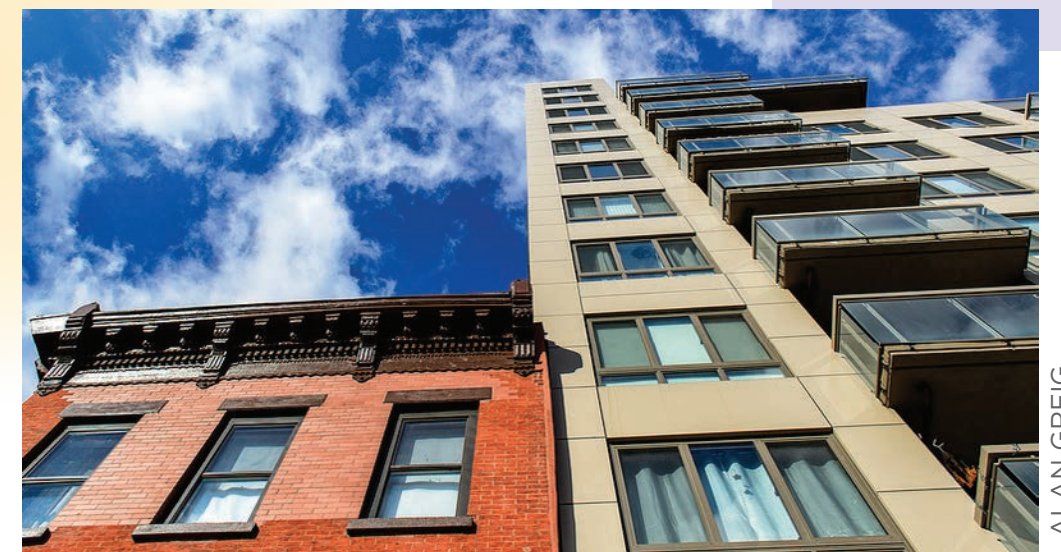
Since the 1970s, economic inequality has grown dramatically in the United States. Ohio Republican Governor John Kasich recently went against his own political allies by saying, “I’m concerned about the fact there seems to be a war on the poor. That, if you’re poor, somehow you’re shiftless and lazy.” Not only do many people look down on poor people, but Republicans have tried to cut funding to Medicaid, and succeeded in cutting down the food stamp program.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS **Civil disobedience:** refusing to follow unjust laws or practices as a method of peaceful political protest **Social safety nets:** programs run by the government to prevent poor and vulnerable people from falling below a certain level of poverty. The United States has very limited social safety nets compared with other “developed” nations. **Inherently:** naturally, permanently and inseparably **Displaced:** to be pushed out of a location due to natural or social events or situations



A young activist participates in a rally to fight back against the school-to-prison pipeline, demanding education over incarceration.

ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



ALAN GREIG



GRAND LAKE

Since section 4b of the Voting Rights Act was struck down, numerous states have passed laws that will make it more difficult for people to vote, especially those in poor and minority communities.



CAROL GREEN

Wiped Out By Grass?

By SAMUEL MARTINEZ, age 12

DNA analysis of arctic vegetation suggests that a lack of proper food may have been a major contribution to the extinction of the woolly mammoth. Scientists found that forbs (flowering herbs) such as sagebrush and yarrow were disappearing around 10,000 years ago. Easier to digest than grass, these may have been a main source of protein for the mammoths. Some researchers caution that this may not be the right explanation, as the results are preliminary.

Massive Subglacial Trench Discovered in Antarctica

By EMILY HERNANDEZ, age 11



CHRISTOPHER MICHEL

In January 2014, a team of British scientists discovered a massive ice trench (ditch) in Antarctica, and named it the Ellsworth Trough. The trench began as a river that froze, and was carved over time by slow-moving glaciers millions of years ago. There are ancient mountains, valleys and lakes hidden underneath the layers of ice covering the trench. It is up to 186.4 miles long, 15.5 miles across and 1.9 miles deep—twice as deep as the Grand Canyon!

Oldest Human Footprints Found in the UK

By ELEANOR HEDGES-DUROY, age 11



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In May 2013, scientists in Norfolk, England, discovered 850,000-year-old footprints in hardened sediment uncovered by erosion. Scientists believe they belonged to *Homo antecessor*, an early hominoid (human species). British Museum scientist Nick Ashton said, "[The] site continues to rewrite our understanding of the early human occupation of Britain and indeed of Europe." Two weeks later, the tide washed the footprints away. Scientists are now analyzing pictures of these oldest footprints in Europe.

800,000

The age of the human footprints found in Norfolk England. Scientists believe they belong to the *Homo antecessor*, an early human. Source: The British Museum

culture&activism

Would You Like to Have a Food Co-op Near You?

By RIDA ALI, age 10

A food cooperative,* or a co-op, is a supermarket where people go to buy good quality food and to save money. The difference between a co-op and a regular supermarket is that co-op members decide what foods to buy and how to purchase and distribute them.

They are also meeting the growing demand for fresher foods with fewer pesticides and a desire to support local farmers. The North Carolina General Assembly estimates that there are more than 47,000 cooperatives in the United States, serving over 130 million people daily.

G. Evelyn Lampart, who has been a member of the Park Slope Food Co-op in Brooklyn, NY, for more than 30 years, says, "Co-ops help make healthy food affordable to everyone by keeping the overhead** low and not having to pay most employees. These lower prices can help people on a tight budget."

Studies have shown that wealthy communities have three times as many supermarkets as poor ones. According to the Food Empowerment Project, an organization dedicated to food justice issues, many people live in areas where access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh fruits and vegetables) is limited. These areas are called food deserts.

Currently, a community in South Los Angeles is organizing to open the SoLA Food Co-op in response to expensive yet poor quality food in their area. According to organizers, "SoLA's members plan to not only provide

great choices in food shopping, but to empower each other and the community economically."

* **Cooperative:** a business, farm, living space or other organization that is owned jointly by all of its members. They work together to run/maintain it and share all profits or benefits.

** **Overhead:** the money that it costs to run an operation (in this case, a grocery store)



ANDY PIPER

The North Carolina General Assembly estimates that there are more than 47,000 cooperatives in the United States, serving over 130 million people daily.

Hot Dog Vendors Facing Hidden Challenges

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10

When you buy something from a hot dog vendor, do you ever think about how much they're earning? It may be a question worth exploring. The cost of operating a cart in New York City is very high due to the rent that the vendors have to pay. Also, there are other expenses that need to be covered.

Vendors have to pay rent based on where they sell their hot dogs. The prices range from \$700 a year in soccer fields in Inwood Park in Upper Manhattan to \$289,500 a year in Central Park. In addition to the high rent, the cart owners have to pay for the carts, the food and drinks that they sell, and city permits that have to be continually renewed.

According to the *New York Times*, the vendors working the carts are often not even the owners, and some work as long as 12 hours a day.

In an interview with *IndyKids*, a vendor in Astoria, Queens, said that weather is the biggest problem for hot dog vendors in New York City. Mr. Alam, a vendor who works a cart near the Central Park Zoo, told the *New York Times*, "When it's raining, sometimes empty, nothing, zero. Lots of times I go empty."



ERIC KONON

The vendors working the carts are often not even the owners, and some work as long as 12 hours in one day.

However, the days of traditional vendors may be numbered. An organization called Washington Square Park Conservancy is now trying to rid the park of the current hot dog vendors and replace them with more expensive, upscale vendors who can pay even higher rent.

Around the Borough: Manhattan

New York City is divided into five big neighborhoods called *boroughs*. The five boroughs are Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Each one has a very distinct personality and could almost be its own city. For this issue, this page is dedicated to stories from **Manhattan**.

yourturn

Manhattan Kids Talk About Minimum Wage

Many workers say that the current minimum wage of \$7.25 is not enough and they are protesting to raise the wage to \$15 an hour. *IndyKids* asked kids from PS 128 in Washington Heights in **Manhattan**, “Do you think that minimum wage should be increased?”

PHOTOS: CLAUDIA HIRSCH



I think the minimum wage should be increased because the workers need more money for their home to support their family. They need money because if they don't pay the rent, they might lose their home.

Brianni Zabala, age 10



I think managers should raise their wage to \$15 per hour because sometimes my mom says that she wants to learn English to get a better job because she gets paid less than \$10 per hour and she needs food stamps to do the groceries.

Wesley Rivera, age 10



I support minimum wage and I am against it because I think people that work in fast food places should get like \$10 an hour or \$15, because they work really hard. But I also think that if you raise the minimum wage, they have to raise prices too. And nobody would buy a hamburger for \$10.

Itzel Cortes, age 9



I agree that the minimum wage should be increased to \$15 an hour because workers cannot support their families without a living wage which is the right amount of money to survive... it's not fair to work full time and then raise your kids in poverty.

Shederick Alcantara, age 10



I think minimum wage should be increased because people need a living wage to live. They are getting “run over” by minimum wage because they can't reach the things they need. So I think that their minimum wages should be increased into a living wage.

Eliah Tapia, age 8

Someday, you could start a Community Media Center, just like Keiko Tsuno

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 9

Have you ever thought of making a documentary film? Keiko Tsuno is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Downtown Community Television Center (DCTV), a community media center in downtown Manhattan. *IndyKids* reporter Nylu Avery Bernshtayn asks Keiko about the history of DCTV and the importance of electronic media education.

Nylu Avery Bernshtayn: What is your role at DCTV?

Keiko Tsuno: Jon [Alpert] and I started DCTV in 1972—42 years ago. We started with one black-and-white camera in our living room. Our space became bigger and bigger, and here we are!

Can you talk about the history of the building DCTV is housed in at 87 Lafayette Street, NYC?

We moved here 35 years ago. It was an old firehouse, and the building had been abandoned for 16 years before we moved in. This area of NYC was called Collect Pond, and the firehouse was actually sinking into the marshland when we moved in! We had to fix every-

thing ourselves, little by little, and eventually, we bought this historic landmark building from the city.

What types of classes are offered at DCTV?

We have two categories of classes: one for the general public, and the other specifically for high school students. For 35 years, we have offered specialized workshops for high school students through our youth program. Anyone can participate in our general program, but the youth program is specifically for young people from low-income communities.

I know that you are a documentary filmmaker, editor and camerawoman. Why do you think it is important for young women and young people of color from disadvantaged communities to have access to electronic media arts?

From the very beginning, this has been our mission. We keep the cost of our programming as low as possible so that people from underserved communities have the chance to explore electronic media arts. We think it is important for people from different communities to be able



Keiko Tsuno with husband, Jon Alpert, and grandson, Calum, outside of DCTV.

to tell their own stories. If they have access to their own camera, they can show their lives, and how people are living in their communities. We wanted to use this camera for a good cause for society—that was our only focus, and we have survived as a community media center for over 40 years.

The Schomburg Center: Where Every Month is Black History Month

By SADIE PARKER, age 11

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a branch of the New York Public Library (NYPL), is a leading research center for the history and culture of people of African descent. It also provides an excellent opportunity to explore New York's rich history and become engaged in its progressive future.

The research center was named after Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a Puerto Rican-born black scholar who sold his extensive collection of books and artifacts to the NYPL in 1926. He then served as the center's curator from 1932 until his death in 1938. Schomburg was inspired to start his collection because as a child, a teacher told him that people of African descent did not have any history, important leaders or important achievements.

During the Harlem Renaissance*, the Schomburg Center was an important place for African American artists and activists, like poets Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, to collaborate.

The Schomburg Center continues the tradition of bringing creative activists together with Schomburg Junior Scholars, a unique program available to kids ages 11 to 18 that aims to inspire the next generation of artists, activists and academics. Samuel, a sixth grader who has been a Junior Scholar for three years, said, “I love reading and at the program we got books from the many people who came to speak with us and encouraged us to learn and understand our culture.”

Through exhibitions like the Black Comic Convention and Funky Turns 40: The Black Character Revolution, which explores the evolution of black animated characters, the Schomburg Center remains a fun and meaningful way to learn about American history from the perspective of people of African descent.



During the Harlem Renaissance, the Schomburg Center was an important place for African American artists and activists.

* **Harlem Renaissance:** a cultural movement during the 1920s that involved the growth and development of African American music, art and philosophical and religious thought. While it was centered in the Manhattan neighborhood of Harlem, the movement took place in urban areas throughout the Northeast and Midwest of the United States.



Junior Roller Derby is a growing sport. There are more than 200 junior teams in the United States.

GIRLS ON WHEELS



By AMELIA LOEFFLER, age 11

My name is Rolldemort. Well, actually it's Amelia, but I play junior roller derby, and in derby you have a "derby name." Some of my teammates' derby names are TerminateHer, Bruisin' Belle and Spittin' Venom. Junior roller derby is a full-contact, all-girls sport played on quad skates (skates with four wheels).

We wear full protective gear: a helmet, wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads and a mouth guard. The object of the game is to score more points than the opposing team. A jammer scores points by passing the opposing team's players, and blockers work to get their jammer through the pack—blocking the other team's jammer.

Roller derby takes girls outside their comfort zones, in a good way. I couldn't skate at all two years ago and now I am competing and improving at every practice. My team is always learning new things, and that's one of the reasons why derby is so great—it's never boring.

Junior Roller Derby is a growing sport. There are more than 200 junior teams in the United States. There are three in my state, Kentucky. I skate for the Central Kentucky Junior Roller Derby's Pebbles Team. We're the Pebbles because our big sister team (the older girls) is called ROCK, that's short for Rollergirls of Central Kentucky.

I'd recommend junior roller derby to anyone. New York City is home to Gotham Girls Roller Derby and they have a junior team as well—check them out!

MOVIE REVIEW: INEQUALITY FOR ALL



By THEO FRYE-YANOS,
age 11

Inequality for All is a 2013 documentary film about inequality in the United States. It is narrated by Robert Reich, a former United States Secretary of Labor during the Clinton Administration and current professor at UC Berkeley. In the film, Reich explores why the United States has so much income inequality, and why the financial gap between the rich and the poor is widening. *Inequality for All* is a great educational film with a touch of political humor that I recommend for everyone that wishes to know about income inequality in our country and how we can fix it.

GETTING WILD WITH THE BLOB FISH



By JACKSON ZAVALA, age 10

The blob fish (*Psychrolutes microporos*) is known for its weird physical appearance and is considered one of nature's oddities. Its face looks like a human face except with a big frown and a sagging nose. The blob fish is a popular media subject and commonly lampooned* for its ugliness. In 2013, it was given the title 'Worlds Ugliest Animal' by the Ugly Animal Preservation Society, which works to build awareness about endangered species using comedy skits to break down people's negativity towards unattractive animals. The blob fish is unfortunately on the verge of extinction as a result of trawling, which is when fish are caught with a large net dragged along the ocean floor instead of a fishing rod to fish.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The blob fish has no muscles
- While other fish hunt and eat small fish, the blob fish just sits and waits for its prey (mollusks and sea urchins) to come to it.
- There is a law in process against deep-sea trawling in Europe that has not yet been passed, but is needed to protect this unique creature.



JAMES JOEL

In 2013, the blob fish was given the title "Worlds Ugliest Animal" by the Ugly Animal Preservation Society, which works to build awareness about endangered species.

- It can grow up to 12 inches, which is small compared to other marine animals
- The blob fish lives off small crustaceans
- An average fish can lay 50 to 200 eggs but the blob fish can lay up to 1,000 eggs!

* **Lampoon:** to playfully make fun of something or someone

ORIGINAL CARTOON BY ASHLEY PACHECO



By ASHLEY PACHECO, age 9



WORD SEARCH

Find the key words from this issue!

ANTARCTICA
APARTHEID
CIVIL RIGHTS
INEQUALITY
MANHATTAN
MINIMUM WAGE
NET NEUTRALITY
PALESTINE
PANAMA
ROLLER DERBY
SCHOMBURG
VENDOR
WOOLLY MAMMOTH

N	C	J	C	P	A	F	M	K	H	R	A	N	Y	P	C	X
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G	L	I	N	I	N	M	W	P	C	T	P	P	A	S	N	E
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U	I	I	M	A	W	O	O	Q	A	O	A	G	Q	I	T	U
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